

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated August 24, 2005, accompanied by a two month extension of time filed within the five-month time period for response, which time period is set to expire on January 24, 2006. Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Before this amendment, claims 1-21 were pending. Claims 1-15 were allowed. Claims 16-21 were rejected. Applicant appreciates the indication that Claims 1-15 are allowable.

Claims 16, 18 and 21 have been amended in this amendment. Thus, claims 1-21 are presently pending in the application.

Support for the amendment to claim 16 is found throughout the specification, especially in original Claim 1. Thus, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Support for the amendment to claim 18 is found throughout the specification, especially in original Claim 18. Thus, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Support for the amendment to claim 21 is found throughout the specification, especially on page 2 and page 20. Thus, no new matter has been added by this amendment.

35 U.S.C. 112

The rejection of Claims 18 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph have been addressed by amendment in accordance with the patent office's suggestion. Therefore, it is believed that these claims are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lai et al (US 5,496,871) in view of Valint, Jr. et al (US 6,440,571) and Vanderaan et al (US 6,087,415).

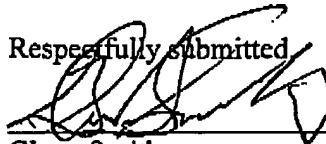
The amendment of Independent Claim 16 and the claims that depend therefrom is believed to obviate this rejection. Applicant feels that the patent office has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness for a new device comprising a new monomer. Therefore, the rejection of claims 16-21 for obviousness is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing arguments and amendments, Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action on the merits is solicited.

No additional fee is believed to be due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-1425.

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Respectfully submitted



Glenn Smith
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 42,156

BAUSCH & LOMB INCORPORATED
One Bausch & Lomb Place
Rochester, NY 14604-2701
Telephone: (585) 338-6142
Facsimile: (585) 338-8706